

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 05794

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM
SUBJECT: SPECIAL MEETING ON INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID

REF: STATE 095550, GENEVA 5795

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF SPEECH DELIVERED BY THEO VAN BOVEN
AT SUBJECT MEETING ON MARCH 21:

QUOTE
MR. DIRECTOR-GENERAL, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

".....ANY DOCTRINE OF SUPERIORITY BASED ON RACIAL DIFFER-
ENTIATION IS SCIENTIFICALLY FALSE, MORALLY CONDEMNABLE,
SOCIALY UNJUST AND DANGEROUS....."

".....APARTHEID IS A CRIME AGAINST HUMANITY AND INHUMAN
ACTS RESULTING FROM THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF
APARTHEID AND SIMILAR POLICES AND PRACTICES OF RACIAL
SEGREGATION AND DISCRIMINATION.....ARE CRIMES VIOLATING
THE PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, IN PARTICULAR THE
PURPOSES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED
NATIONS, AND CONSTITUTING A SERIOUS THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL
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PEACE AND SECURITY."

THESE TWO QUOTATIONS, TAKEN FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION AND THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE
SUPPRESSION AND PUNISHMENT OF THE CRIME OF
APARTHEID, ARE ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE MANY EXPRESSIONS OF

DEEP-FELT CONCERN ON THE PART OF THE ORGANIZATION AND THE PEOPLES OF THE UNITED NATIONS REGARDING RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND IN PARTICULAR THE POLICIES AND PRACTICES OF APARTHEID. THESE WORDS PHRASED IN LEGAL AND MORAL LANGUAGE - AND THEY COULD BE MULTIPLIED BY HUNDREDS OF OTHER PRONOUNCEMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS - DENOUNCE A SYSTEM OF OPPRESSION, WHICH IS UNIQUE INASMUCH AS IT IS OFFICIALLY SYSTEMATISED AND SANCTIONED BY LAW. THE IDEOLOGY OF APARTHEID IS OFTEN ANALYSED - PARALLELS HAVE BEEN DRAWN BETWEEN THIS RACIST DOCTRINE AND NAZISM - AND WE ARE AWARE WHAT PRACTICES ARE RESULTING FROM THIS THEORY OF OPPRESSION. OUR MAIN CONCERN IN THIS NETWORK OF OPPRESSION ARE THE PEOPLE: VICTIMS OF VIOLATIONS OF VIRTUALLY ALL THE RIGHTS ENSHRINED IN THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND IN OTHER UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS.

WE KNOW THE FACTS. A WORKING GROUP OF THE UNITED NATIONS COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS REGULARLY ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA, NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE. CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, KILLINGS, RESULTING FROM POLICE BRUTALITY, ILL-TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS AND DETAINEES, FORCED REMOVALS OF POPULATION, SLAVERY-LIKE CONDITIONS OF WORKERS, INFRINGEMENTS OF TRADE-UNION RIGHTS ARE REPORTED BY THE UN, BY SPECIALIZED AGENCIES, BY LABOUR UNIONS, BY CHURCHES, BY ANTI-APARTHEID AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOLIDARITY MOVEMENTS AND BY MANN OTHER ORGANS OF SOCIETY.

A CRUCIAL QUESTION IS WHERE DO THE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POWERS AND AUTHORITIES STAND. DO THEY CHOOSE FOR THE OPPRESSED AND THE DISCRIMINATED OR ARE THEY BACKING UP THE OPPRESSORS. THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IS ACTIVELY SEIZED WITH THIS QUESTION, BASING ITSELF ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO THE COLONIAL AND RACISTS REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA MEANS BECOMING AN ACCOMPLICE IN THE CONTINUATION OF COLONIAL AND RACIST PRACTICES IN THAT AREA. IT IS CHEAP AND REPREHENSIBLE TO UTTER VERBAL CONDEMNATIONS CONCERNING APARTHEID AND TO ALLOW AT THE SAME TIME PROFITABLE ECONOMIC, NUCLEAR AND OTHER FORMS OF COOPERATION WITH THE APARTHEID REGIME TO CONTINUE. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED IN THIS CONNEXION THAT IT IS ALSO UNJUST TO IGNORE THE PLIGHT OF THOSE WHOSE SUFFER FROM POLITICAL AND SOCIAL OPPRESSION AND DISCRIMINATION BY OTHER REGIMES THAN THE APARTHEID REGIME.

THE UNITED NATIONS IS UTILISING MANY CHALLENGING METHODS AND TECHNIQUES IN ITS EFFORTS TO COMBAT APARTHEID AND TO

ASSIST THE VICTIMS OF THIS EVIL POLICY AND PRACTICE.
FACT-FINDING, PUBLICITY, EXPOSURE, DIRECT RELATIONS
WITH THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE OPPRESSED - THE LIBERA-
TION MOVEMENTS - HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, ESTABLISHING
LISTS OF WRONG-DOERS, INCLUDING PERSONS ACCUSED OF BEING
GUILTY OF THE CRIME OF APARTHEID, ARMS EMBARGO AND MANY
OTHER METHODS ARE APPLIED. ALL THESE MEANS AND METHODS
ARE QUITE INNOVATIVE IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND THEY
DEMONSTRATE WHAT ARE THE POTENTIALS OF THE WORLD ORGANIZA-
TION IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THEY ALSO SERVE ONE
OF THE PURPOSES STATED IN THE PROGRAMME OF THE INTERNA-

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TIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR, VIZ, TO ENABLE THE SOUTH
AFRICAN PEOPLE TO ERADICATE APARTHEID AND ESTABLISH A
NEW SOCIETY, BASED ON THE EXERCISE OF THE RIGHTS TO
SELF-DETERMINATION BY ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTRY AS
A WHOLE, IRRESPECTIVE OF RACE, COLOUR OR CREED.

THE INTERNATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR HAPPENS TO BE IN
THE MIDDLE OF THE DECADE FOR ACTION TO COMBAT RACISM
AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, WHICH WAS PROCLAIMED IN 1973,
AT THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF
HUMAN RIGHTS. IN AUGUST OF THIS YEAR THE WORLD CONFER-
ENCE TO COMBAT RACISM AND RACIAL DISCRIMINATION WILL BE
HELD HERE IN GENEVA. THIS WORLD CONFERENCE OFFFERS A
MAJOR FORUM FOR ALL ORGANS OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
TO DEMONSTRATE IN MORE THAN VERBAL TERMS THEIR SUPPORT
FOR LIBERATION AND JUSTICE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

THE UNITED NATIONS CAN ONLY BE EFFECTIVE IN ITS ENDEAVOURS

IF IT HAS THE SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNMENTS AND THE PEOPLES.
THIS IS ALSO TRUE FOR UNITED NATIONS EFFORTS AGAINST
APARTHEID AND IT IS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT THE INTER-
NATIONAL ANTI-APARTHEID YEAR IS AIMING AT FURTHER
MOBILIZING WORLD OPINION. THE WORLD AT LARGE, BUT
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FIRST AND FOREMOST THE PEOPLE UNDER SUBJUGATION IN
SOUTHERN AFRICA ARE LONGING FOR POLITICAL FREEDOM AND
SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL, WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION. TO
THIS END RADICAL CHANGES ARE URGENTLY NEEDED IN THE
RELATIONS BETWEEN OPPRESSORS AND OPPRESSED. THEY ALL
MUST BE LIBERATED FROM APARTHEID. UNQUOTE.VANDENHEUVEL

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